

Firrhill Community Council

'Nec Aspera Terrent'

(Undaunted by Adversity)

Minute of the Meeting held on Monday 22 September 2014

At Lochan View Community Business Centre, 12 Firrhill Neuk

Attendance and Apologies:

Members: L Linn; S Duffy; F Gosney; G Duncan; P Wright; H Levy; J Napier.

Resident Visitors: C Harvey; N Peachey; W Allan.

Other Visitors: Cllr Rust; A Ferguson (Asst to Cllr Rust).

Apologies: L McGurk; P Valentine, OCRA; J Burt; Cllr Aitken; Cllr R Lewis; PC L Burrell, Oxfangs Police; G Brown.

H Levy in the Chair and welcomed the new visitors to the meeting.

Minutes of Previous Meeting:

The draft minutes for meeting held on 28 July 2014 were reviewed. There being no corrections the minutes were moved for approval by PW, seconded by LL and agreed.

Matters Arising:

Identification of New Recycling Points in the Firrhill area

This concerns Edinburgh's *Waste and Recycling Strategy* and more specifically the work being done to increase access to recycling services. Cllr Aitken is seeking to find out what work/consultation has been done to identify locations for new communal recycling points within the Firrhill area. Due to the absence of Cllr Aitken this matter is deferred to the next meeting.

Action: Cllr Aitken

Planning Application 14/02760/FUL

This concerns the planning application for a hot food take-away at No. 76 Colinton Mains Drive. The application is still under consideration by the Planning Committee.

Residents had asked for assurances that the demolished separating wall dividing the back and front shop was not a load-bearing wall. Cllr Rust advised he has raised it with Building Control and is waiting for a report back.

Action: Cllr Rust

Flooding at Colinton Mains Drive

This relates to complaints about flooding in the area of the pedestrian crossing near its junction with Colinton Mains Terrace. The foundations of the houses in the immediate area suffer from constant dampness. Due to the absence of Cllr Aitken this matter is deferred to the next meeting.

Action: Cllr Aitken

Police Report

Chair read out the police report in the absence of PC Burrell who was currently attending an incident. In the period between 25th August and 22nd Sept, the Police received 189 calls from the Firrhill/Oxgangs area. There were 38 calls regarding nuisance / loud music and neighbour disputes. There were also 13 domestic incidents. Below is a summary of noteworthy crimes over the last four weeks:

Thefts or attempted thefts of motorcycles in area

- 25th August – Oxgangs Farm Grove – OLP to vehicle (car) with intent to steal.
- 15th Sept – Firrhill Drive – theft of motorcycle – recovered but enquiries still ongoing.
- 18th Sept – Male observed by police on stolen motorcycle outside Firrhill High School. M/C abandoned and suspect detained after a short chase. Suspect arrested and charged with enquiries ongoing as to links to similar crimes.

Vandalism

- 31st August – Oxgangs Police Station – object thrown at window. Male detained and taken to hospital, admitted for psychiatric assessment.

Housebreaking/OLP

- 25th August – Oxgangs Farm Grove – HB to garages. Enquiries ongoing to discover what has been stolen.
- 30th August – Oxgangs Road North – rear window forced. 2 x flat screened TVs stolen
- 30th August – Oxgangs Road North – rear window smashed but nothing taken
- 6th Sept – Oxgangs Bank – shed broken into nothing stolen
- 6th Sept – Oxgangs Terrace – garage broken into and mountain bike stolen.

Incidents of Note

- 26th August – Firrhill Drive – bin chute set alight
- 28th August – hate crime, Firrhill Loan – car smeared with dog excrement, with previous incidents of Swastika's daubed on complainer's walls
- 8th Sept – hate crime, Oxgangs area – youths racially abused by adults
- 10th Sept – robbery – female assaulted and CCTV stolen from her home. Suspected to be linked to an ongoing case.
- 15th Sept – sexual assault, Oxgangs Farm Avenue – inappropriate touching and a threat to rape. Suspect traced and charged.
- 16th Sept – perceived hate crime, Oxgangs Street – food dumped on car on consecutive nights

Of the 44 crime reports generated through this month, 23 of them have been solved.

Road Traffic Matters

Two reports regarding minor RTC (one involving a car striking an unattended dog, which ran away.)

Complaints received regarding vehicles causing obstruction in the area. Generally these are inconsiderate and bad parking rather than actual obstructions.

Community Policing Team

Should you wish to contact the Community Policing Team, you can do so by email at EdinburghPentlandHillsCPT@Scotland.pnn.police.uk or by telephoning the new national non-emergency number **101**. You can also follow them on twitter @PentlandsPolice .

If there is anything in particular that you wish to bring to their attention, please get in touch. Partnership working requires participation.

Warning about doorstep callers: don't sign up with, or give money to, anyone who cold-calls, i.e., anyone you haven't arranged to call. Say NO and report them to Police Scotland Tel: 101 or the City Council's Trading Standards Tel: 0131-529 3030.

To pass on information about crime anonymously, call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or fill out their secure, encrypted online [Giving Information Form](#).

Ward Councillor's Report:

Councillor Rust

Oxgangs Neighbourhood Centre: The ONC is holding its AGM on Wednesday, 22nd October. If you are interested in membership, sign up beforehand and have the opportunity to have your say at the A.G.M. Membership is still only £2. Existing members and new members can collect a form from the office.

Firrhill Loan: A small enclosed area of HRA green space land on the other side of the road from Colinton Mains Community Centre is not being maintained due to health and safety policies. A gate is to be provided to enable council workmen to access this grassed area with cutting equipment.

Pentland Neighbourhood Partnership – Public Meeting: scheduled to be held in Colinton Bowling Club on 30th Sept.

NEP meeting 12 September 2014: See under PNP - EIT Report below

Refuse Collections: There are still complaints in regard to refuse collections some of which are as a consequence of the trial route changes to try and resolve the problems. Hopefully this work will reduce the number of complaints in time.

Aldi: The planning application should be available on the planning portal of the City Council's website for comment next week.

20mph Consultation: The City Council are proposing 20 mph speed limits for a large area of central Edinburgh, all main shopping streets and residential streets throughout the city. Streets with a high level of pedestrians and cyclists are also included. A drop-in session was held in Oxgangs Library on 22 September, between 2 and 4pm to enable people to ask questions and get involved in the consultation.

Edinburgh Building Services: asked questions on the extension of the repairs service to an out of hours service as from 1st April 2014. This has not happened yet.

PNP Reports

EIT Sub Group – 12th September

This was a special meeting devoted to determining the **Neighbourhood Environment Projects** (NEP) for this financial year, action on which was delayed due to the need to clarify the budget. The Ward 8 allocation from the annual NEPs budget is £34,500.00. A spreadsheet showing the list of projects, promoted by Community Councils, Councillors, Members of the Public and the Roads Team, was circulated at the meeting. A list of the projects including the reasons for the work and estimated costs is attached as [appendix 1](#).

There are only two projects on the list in the Firrhill area but both are estimated as being expensive.

1. Record No. 836

Project Title: Footway improvement along section of Braidburn core path from St Mark's school – Firrhill Park

Reason for project: Access and paths in poor condition

Estimated cost: £20,000.00

Location: core path footway from St Mark's to Firrhill Park

Submission: Firrhill Community Council

The Community Council is not aware of having submitted this project and do not consider it a core path. There is a perfectly good path running down the other side of the burn that connects to the park via a footbridge. However it has been noted that people do use this way particularly parents and children when going to and from Firrhill Park to the schools. There is a short area that is not paved and that is the part between the Firrhill Drive footbridge and the path running down the side of St Mark's Primary School. This small area is most affected by water retention and it would obviously benefit those who insist on using this way, if the project was carried out. It is not clear if the estimated cost relates to this only and not as described from St Mark's to Firrhill Park.

2. Record No. 839

Extend lighting in Colinton Mains Park from Firrhill Drive footbridge to Firrhill Park

Reason for project: Footpaths not lit at the moment

Estimated cost: 25,000.00

Location: Colinton Mains Park – Lighting phase 2

Submission: Firrhill Community Council

The Community Council have argued strongly for lighting to be installed as part of the recent re-generation work done in Colinton Mains Park. This second phase has been on the list for three years therefore we sought for this project to be carried out during the next financial year

The outcome of the meeting was for five projects, out of the original 15, to be costed more accurately. This included the extended lighting for Colinton Mains Park and as this project is estimated to cost £25k, it would leave only £8.5k for Fairmilehead and Colinton. Other sources will also be looked at in order to raise sufficient funding.

Members Reports

Planning Report:

The Planning Report was circulated at the meeting and is attached as [appendix 2](#).

Treasurer's Report

No change from previous report

Correspondence

A list of correspondence received during this reporting period is attached as [appendix 3](#). For more detail on any of the correspondence listed contact the Secretary, Peggy Wright; Tel: 531 9796; email: peggy.wright@live.co.uk.

AOCB

Firrhill Medical Centre

Chair reported that the Firrhill project is currently on programme and within budget. We can expect a site start in March 2015 with the building opening to the public in the summer of 2016.

There are a number of hurdles that need to be overcome before then.

- The Health Board and the Scottish Government will have to approve the Full Business Case in November-December 2014
- The Board have to conclude the purchase of the site from the Council - there is apparently an issue about Edinburgh Schools PPP's access to the site in order to maintain the boundary fence; the Council solicitor is looking into this at the moment.
- Both GP Practices have to formally accept the terms of the occupancy agreement.

None of these matters is causing major concern.

Lastly, it is intended to run a competition in the community to name the new building.

One City Trust Community Event

Chair attending this event, being held in the City Chambers on 7th Oct 2014, as one of the two representatives from the Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership.

The [OneCity Trust](#) has been operating in the city for over ten years, following a key recommendation of the Lord Provost's Commission on Social Exclusion. The event will bring together existing corporate donors to the Trust, representatives of key third sector networks in the city, those working at neighbourhood level, Trustees and existing grant-holders in a discussion about the future direction of the Trust.

The Trust wants to fund projects which solve local social exclusion problems whilst also recognising the needs of Edinburgh's employers and wealth creators. The event will enable attendees to talk about local needs in their neighbourhood and help to shape OneCity Trust priorities going into the future.

Date, Time and Venue of Next Meeting:

Monday **27th October 2014** in the Lochan View Community Business Centre at **2.30pm**.

Note change of time: This meeting commences at 2.30pm, in line with the Community Council's policy to avoid members and visitors having to walk home in the dark.

Environment, Infrastructure and Transport Sub Group: 14 Sept 2014

Project Title	Reason for project	Estimated Cost (£)
(836) Footway improvement along section of Braidburn core path from St Marks School - Firrhill Park	Access and paths in poor condition.	20,000
Bonaly Brae - footpath leading to school	Resurface and re-grade to remove ponding issue	8,500
Buckstone Estate	Vehicles blocking footways	5,000
Bridge Road - footway (east end)	Resurfacing of the pavement from Mackenzie's to the main traffic lights	20,000
Bonaly Drive - footway	Resurfacing of the pavement as in need of repair	10,000
Woodfield Avenue - footway	Resurfacing of the pavement as in need of repair	15,000
Spylaw Park - path to children's play area	Path in poor condition	6,000
Spylaw Park - riverside path	Path in poor condition	2,000
Woodhall Bank - footway and roadway	Repairs needed	Phased
Woodfield Park - footway	Resurfacing of the pavement as in need of repair	15,000
Bonaly Crescent - roadway	Resurfacing of the road, partially done but still in poor condition	50,000
(989) Woodhall Road - footway	Resurfacing of the pavement as in need of repair	20,000
(839) Extend lighting in Colinton Mains Park from Firrhill Drive footbridge to Firrhill Park	Footpaths not lit at the moment.	25,000
(853) Woodhall Road, Colinton - guardrails	Guardrails in desperate need for replacing.	20,000
(943) Tryst Park – re-grade carriageway	Ponding at location	15,000
(992) Redford Bank- Lighting	Footpath well used and not lit at the moment.	15,000
Bridge Road- Colinton	Erect new lighting column	2,000
Colinton Road	Tree planting	4,000

Planning Report: September 2014

Weekly Planning Bulletins

There was very little planning activity in Firrhill Community Council's area. The only item of note is the decision on application 14/02615/FUL concerning a change of use from cold food takeaway to cafe / hot food takeaway at the Baguette Stop, 230B Oxfords Road North, Edinburgh, EH13 9BQ. The application has been refused for the following reason.

1. *The proposals will result in an over-concentration of hot-food takeaways within the locality and are thus likely to lead to an increase in noise and disturbance in a predominantly residential area. The proposals are thus contrary to Edinburgh City Local Plan Policy Ret 12 (Food and Drink Establishments), Policy Hou 8 (Inappropriate Uses in Residential Areas), and the Non Statutory Guidelines for Businesses.*

From the documentation it appears that the original application in 2011, was for a change of use from vacant retail unit to hot food takeaway. This was refused and appeal dismissed.

Strategic Development Plan Supplementary Guidance on Housing Land

This Supplementary Guidance (SG) was demanded by the Scottish Government as a condition of its acceptance of the Strategic Development Plan put forward by SESplan in June 2013. Having gone through a consultation exercise and been ratified by the constituent authorities, which make up the SESplan Joint Committee, the finalised SG was put to the Scottish Government. In its consideration, the Scottish Government require the removal of a sentence related to the calculation of the housing land requirement over a five year period¹. The SESplan Joint Committee disagree with the Scottish Government's views on this matter but have decided to recommend that the modification be accepted to avoid a further uncertainty and delay to the preparation of LDPs and SDP2. The matter was put to the CEC Planning Committee on 8th August

Edinburgh Local Development Plan – Second Proposed Plan

As I reported at the last meeting the second proposed plan is out for consultation and comments must be lodged with CEC by 5pm on Friday 3 October 2014.

The South West Communities Forum has drafted out a couple of representation forms in respect of the LDP, for CCs to use for comments and suggests we review these Forms in the context of our own area. Also include the SWCF policies on Green Belt, Brownfield, Coalescence and Open Space for our consideration.

The participating CCs have agreed to support each other as a Forum, so are looking for comments to be acceptable to their members. With this in mind they would like CCs to send their comments by 21st Sept so that they can be collated for discussion at our meeting on 29th Sept.

¹ The text of that sentence states, "Member Authorities will base their calculation of the five year land supply on the period 2009-2024, taking into consideration housing completions."

Correspondence List: September 2014

By e-mail: forwarded to members where possible. Items in bold may be of particular interest.

- 1 Cllr Rust: email to Development Planning re **query raised at Firrhill CC meeting on 25 Aug as to why LDP booklets were posted to every CC at £15.84 per parcel.**
Ben Wilson: reply to above that these were sent 1st class to all 44 CCs because of late printing of maps, and to give time for response.
- 2 Reply to L & D Williams re their complaint of 24 Aug and query of 26 Aug as to whether this was discussed at our meeting. [Basically, they took the matter out of Firrhill CC's hands by holding a petition of their own and, as far as we are concerned, this matter is now closed.]
- 3 Julie Dickson: confirmation that she has FCC's Constitution to hand - also notification by FCC Secretary of Office Bearers elected at our July AGM.
- 4 James Harbison's **reply to Sec's question re responses from Aldi's exhibitions: 96 were supportive, 10 neutral, 21 non-supportive; EH13 47%, EH10 44%.**
- 5 Irene Beautyman: Lothians Development Plan summary for Pentlands NP area.
- 6 Cllr Lewis re Green Pencil Award for P4-P7 pupils – poetry or prose on the theme 'Scotland's Seas': entries by 10 Oct through schools or libraries.
- 7 **Cllr Rust re Capital Roads Budget, 2015-18: includes Colinton Mains Rd 2015-16; Oxgangs Farm Terr 15-16; Colinton Mains Grove & Cresc 16-17; Oxgangs Path 16-17 [This last has been queried by us as road/footways were re-surfaced last year.]**
- 8 HL/JN: **email discussion re taping of our meetings, following dispute over what had been said (or not) by whom at our July meeting. Minutes would be written up in the same way, but we would have proof of conversations.**
- 9 Cllr Rust, from Graeme McGartland, Estates Services: **Aldi will be doing initial site investigations with several boreholes being drilled round the site. A legal licence ensures work will be undertaken with Health & Safety protocols in place.**
- 10 Michael Edwards: 20 mph presentation slides (used at EIT meeting/consultation).
- 11 **TTRO for Oxgangs Farm Drive footway resurfacing. J Napier, Firrhill CC: his response was concern over steep corner at junction with Oxgangs Rd North down to bus stop – very dangerous in winter. Reply from Roads Officer, through Cllr Rust, that the surface will be hot-rolled asphalt (as for whole project) and no issues are envisaged. New guardrail will be erected outside dentist's.**
- 12 Sarah McDonald: Health Inequality – Council grants.
- 13 Michael Edwards: **Pentlands Neighbourhood Priorities 2014-17: a) Ensure public spaces are kept clean, parks and greenspaces are well maintained, and recycling is promoted; b) develop appropriate transport for all communities and promote cycle routes; c) raise awareness of personal safety and security, and tackle anti-social behaviour; d) ensure activities for young people are accessible, affordable and user-led; e) encourage healthy living through development and promotion of local health services.**
- 14 Dr Andy Edwards (SW Roads Manager): **EIT group suggestions for projects for discussion at meeting on 12 Sept of CC reps from Firrhill and Fairmilehead + Colinton Amenities Assoc (photocopied for Firrhill CC members). Five projects were voted for to be investigated and**

costed in more detail by the Roads Team, including new lighting (Phase 2) in Colinton Mains Park. [Phase 1 lighting was funded by this NEPs budget.]

- 15 PC Derek Brown: PC Lee Burrell has been allocated to Firrhill CC meeting, 22/09.
- 16 Graeme McGartland (through Cllr Rust) **re Firrhill CC Sec's query about Oxbgangs site proportions: Church land 42%; Health & Social Care land 19%; HRA land 29%; Library car park 10%.**
- 17 Julie Dickson: Older Adult Event (free) – Meadowbank Sport Centre, 1 Oct, 1-4 pm: stalls + opportunity to try out a range of physical activities; tea dance 2.30-4 pm.
- 18 Scott Neill: nominations for Chair of each PNP Action Group (formerly sub-group) to be sent to Scott before next meeting of each group.
- 19 Julie Dickson: Edinburgh Partnership Board Papers from 11 Sept.
- 20 Tina Sutherland re **designs/plans for increasing accommodation at Pentland Primary, if/when this becomes necessary. Drop-in Tuesday 23 Sept, 6.30-8 pm.**
- 21 Sarah McDonald re One City Trust: event to discuss future direction of this Trust. Pentlands NP reps will be Heather Levy and Allister McKillop.

By Post: 'Tenants Voice', Edinburgh Tenants Assoc magazine, Aug '14.

For more information on any of the above, please contact Firrhill Community Council Secretary:
peggy.wright@live.co.uk